

New York May 11th

I received your vehement letter of the 6th, and smiled at the great flutter you were in, where it seemed to me there was not the slightest occasion. There is no separation whatever between us and the Massachusetts friends, and never has been. There is probably very slight, if any, difference between my views about the Union and those of Wendell Phillips. If we differed at all, it would be merely as to the choice of means to dissolve our partnership with guilt; and I cannot tell whether we differ even on that; for I do not know what mode of operation he proposes. You fight with a man of straw altogether, when you suppose I have any unwillingness to have the subject fully and freely discussed in the Standard; provided it is done in a rational and manly style, and not with the cat-hauling of Henry C. Wright.

With regard to the Circular of the Committee, you seem to consider that it was intended to rebuke Garrison; when its sole purpose was to correct a false impression in the minds of citizens of N. York. Had I not deemed the impression untrue, the mobs might have sacked the city, for all my explaining to them. It was imprudent in Garrison to state that the chief business of our anniversary was to dissolve the union; it was incorrect to state that as the leading object of operations for the Society for the coming year, before the Society had at all deliberated what was best on a subject so very important; it was rash to throw out such an anun-

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That you must choose your agent with reference to the work you want done. Remembering always that I am eager to jump out of the tread-mill.

ciation, without any explanation of the means to be
used for the purpose. I considered the circular not only
proper and justifiable, but absolutely necessary; and my
opinion has undergone no iota of change. I should
do just the same thing next week, under similar cir-
cumstances; you, and Ellis G. Loring, and D. L. Child,
to the contrary, notwithstanding. Mr. Child says we
must "back out of the mistake as well as we can." I
reply, that if other members of the Committee see their
way clear to call it a mistake, I have no objection; but
I shall come out with my individual protest.

I thank you for your kind exhortation not to "cry off
my vexation"; albeit it made me smile. In the first
place, I feel no vexation. In the next place, I know not
where you received your impression that I was so sensitive
to the opinions of others. I care not the turning of a
copper, whether the Channingites and the Quakers approve
my course, or not; and I care as little whether the
Chapmanites and the Garrisonites, and the Henry
C. Wright-ites, give me a blowing up; I am glad
that they should do it, if it is any relief to their minds.
Every day that I live, I thank God more and more,
that he gives me the power and the will to be an
individual. I am obliged to the Society for being
willing to do my thinking for me, and graciously decide
whether I shall live in N. York, Philadelphia or Boston.

I regret extremely to hear of Mr. Chapman's feeble health. Give my most affectionate regards to him, and to his good father's family.
Give my most affectionate regards to the members.
Spends with undiminished regard, Jo. M. C.

The Standard is theirs to move where they will. I am my own; and shall never consent to edit, except where I now am; and under circumstances of the same un-impeached freedom. An agitator I am not, and never will be. I find no fault whatever with those who are; nay, I acknowledge their great usefulness. But whenever the Standard becomes the organ of agitation, the adaptation of character to employment will require another editor. For myself, I would like to leave it to-morrow, and accept the propositions of booksellers here; but my attachment to anti-slavery principles would lead me to wish to stand by it, so long as the Society were content to have it a good family anti-slavery newspaper, not intended to meet the wants of ^{ultra} abolitionists, but to gain the ear of the people at large. I told Abby Kelly this, when she first urged

me to take the paper, a step which I most deeply regretted having been urged into. I do not agree with your

proposition that we have "no right to wash our hands of each other." If I thought my connection with the Society implied any such fetter, I should leave it to-morrow. I feel at liberty to wash my hands of anybody, and anything, I please; though I do not feel at liberty to prescribe to them. I have no disposition to "wash my hands of Garrison"; for the simple reason that I have the highest respect for his ability, the most perfect confidence in his integrity of purpose, and a general unity with his principles. I am not willing to be mobbed for him, though I am for any principle that we hold in common. Neither do I ask him to be willing to be mobbed for any and every unguarded or injudicious thing I may say or do. You say we must not prescribe to each other." I thought

I regret extremely to hear of Mr. Chapman's better health. Give my most affectionate remembrance to him; and to his good father's family. I regret with unmingled regret.

So too, when I read that a set in Massachusetts were going to measure every man's "humanity patriotism and piety," by their willingness to dissolve the union; but though my individuality rose in resistance, and made me want to oppose what I in the main agreed with, I took no exceptions to Garrison therefore because I knew he wrote in the earnestness of his heart, and with purity of purpose. Nevertheless, for myself, I do not acknowledge his, or any other person's, measurement; albeit they are welcome to measure, to their heart's content. I regard it as I do the Presbyterian's measure of my creed; a thing altogether harmless, though somewhat assu-

J. M. Haven Dr. Y.
Maria W. Chapman.

Boston.

Mass to

Alfred (Chas.)
Congregational
the influence of
Dr. Chapman?
Judge Fay & I
the Capt. & Mrs. in
eliminate the mind
from the line of duty.
1842

You say "if the Standard cannot face up to Judge Toole and Watson Webb, you see no use in its existing." "Whenever the Society require such facing up, I hope they will inform me, and I shall send my resignation by return of mail; for I never will hold controversy with any such chaps. You can buy Jimmy Jackson back for a trifle, whenever you want such work done. I do not adopt his theory of yielding my judgment to a majority. I hope you will not think this letter is in a threatening spirit, originating in an undue estimate of my own importance. No such thing. I merely wish it understood that I am emphatically an individual; and